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Cont. plurality of electrical signals into a plurality of optical signals of different wavelengths, and wherein,

the optical shutoff means includes a shutdown control circuit which selectively shuts down the plurality of electrical-to-optical converters.

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5. (NEW) A wavelength division multiplexing apparatus, comprising:  
a plurality of attenuators to which a plurality of optical signals of different wavelengths are respectively input, and which respectively attenuate the input optical signals with variable amounts of attenuation;  
an optical combiner which combines optical outputs of the attenuators;  
an optical amplifier which optically amplifies an optical output of the optical combiner; and  
an optical shutoff device to shut off an input of an optical signal not used among the plurality of optical signals.

A2 6. (NEW) The wavelength division multiplexing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the optical shutoff device comprises:  
an optical switch provided at an input of each of the attenuators.

7. (NEW) The wavelength division multiplexing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a transponder that includes a plurality of optical-to-electrical converters which respectively convert a plurality of optical signals of the same wavelength into a plurality of electrical signals and a plurality of electrical-to-optical converters which respectively convert the plurality of electrical signals into a plurality of optical signals of different wavelengths, and wherein,  
the optical shutoff device includes a shutdown control circuit which selectively shuts down the plurality of electrical-to-optical converters.

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